

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 6: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. LAOS: PATHET LAO COMPLETE THEIR TAKEOVER (FROM EA)

THE "LIBERATION" OF VIENTIANE CLIMAXED AUGUST 23, WITH AN ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL PATHET LAO-ARRANGED MASS DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY OF PERHAPS 100,000 PERSONS TO ACCLAIM THE EVENT. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS OPENLY CONTROLLED BY THE PATHET LAO, RATHER THAN MANIPULATED BEHIND THE SCENES AS WERE THE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST USAID LAST MAY. NEITHER OUR EMBASSY NOR ANY OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS WERE HARASSED. THE EXPECTED ANTI-US RHETORIC AND INVECTIVE WERE SOMEWHAT LOWER IN INTENSITY THAN COULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE. THE "LIBERATION" FOLLOWED THE PATTERN ALREADY SHOWN ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, WHEREBY THE PATHET LAO DENOUNCED LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS AND REPLACED THEM WITH EITHER THEIR OWN PERSONNEL OR MORE PLIABLE NON-PL OFFICIALS.

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THE ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST NATIONAL

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE PATHET LAO KEYNOTE SPEAKER IN FACT PROCLAIMED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE KING, SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND SOUPHANOUVONG. THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND THUS LEAVE INTACT THE FACADE OF COALITION UNDER SOUVANNA'S "NEUTRALIST" LEADERSHIP.

2. LIBYA: IS QADHAFI'S DOMESTIC POSITION WEAKENING?
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EMBASSY TRIPOLI REPORTS THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE ABORTIVE COUP EARLIER THIS MONTH QADHAFI'S DOMESTIC SUPPORT MAY BE SOFTENING. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT:

--OTHER OFFICERS ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) STAFF ARE UNDER ARREST.

--CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND FISCAL MISMANAGEMENT WERE MADE IN AN RCC MEETING IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE COUP ATTEMPT.

--CIVILIAN DISCONTENT IS INFECTING THE ARMY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH OUTWARD INDICATIONS ARE THAT QADHAFI REMAINS FIRMLY IN CONTROL, QADHAFI'S UNCHARACTERISTIC RESORT TO REPRESSION, INCLUDING DRACONIAN NEW LAWS PROVIDING HEAVY PENALTIES FOR POLITICAL CRIMES, MAY BE A SIGN OF WEAKNESS RATHER THAN STRENGTH.

3. ITALIANS OFFER MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN

THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS SHOWN TO EMBASSY SANA DETAILED PLANS FOR ITALIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN. THE STUDIES AMOUNT TO DETAILED PLANS FOR FACTORIES TO MANUFACTURE A WIDE VARIETY OF MILITARY ARTICLES. THE AMBASSADOR:

-- EXPECTS A MILITARY TEAM TO ARRIVE IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER TO FINALIZE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE YARG; AND

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-- SAID THAT THE GOI'S MOTIVE WAS TO HELP PRY THE SOVIETS OUT OF A POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN THE YEMENI MILITARY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MAY HAVE BEEN OVERSTATING HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN BALANCE OF POWER POLITICS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, SINCE ITALIAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS ARE ALSO INVOLVED. NEVERTHELESS,

THE PLANS REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE STAFF WORK ON THE MILITARY NEEDS OF THE YAR, AND REFLECT YEMEN'S DESIRE TO TURN AWAY FROM EASTERN BLOC ARMS SOURCES.

4. SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER CALLS FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF ARMS SOURCES

PRINCE SULTAN, SAUDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT DIVERSIFICATION OF ARMS SOURCES IS PREFERABLE TO THE RISKS OF RELYING ON A SINGLE SUPPLIER. HIS REMARKS WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN THE SAUDI PRESS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OUR RECENT TREATMENT OF JORDAN AND TURKEY IN THE MATTER OF ARMS PURCHASES HAS THROWN A SHUDDER INTO THE SAUDIS. SULTAN'S STATEMENT, AT VARIANCE WITH PRINCE FAHD'S "BUY AMERICAN" LINE, IS A SIGN OF SAUDI IMPATIENCE WITH LONG DELAYS ON ARMS PURCHASES FROM US, AS WELL AS OF NEW FEARS OF THE UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED IN BUYING US ARMS.

5. ANGOLA: VIEWS WITHIN THE MPLA ABOUT RELATIONS WITH US

IN A CONVERSATION AUGUST 22 WITH MPLA PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER NASCIMENTO, CONSUL GENERAL KILLORAN LEARNED OF DIVISIONS WITHIN THE MPLA LEADERSHIP CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF RELATIONS WITH THE US. ACCORDING TO NASCIMENTO:

--THE RADICAL LEFTIST FACTION EUPHORIC OVER ITS CONTROL OF MUCH OF THE COUNTRY AND COCKY ABOUT ITS WEALTH AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, BELIEVES IT CAN ISOLATE THE US IF WE DO NOT BEND TO ITS WILL.

--THE LEFTIST FACTION, INCLUDING AGOSTINHO NETO, SEES
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ACCOMMODATION WITH THE US AS NECESSARY, BUT ONLY "SO LONG AS THE US AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS RESPECT ANGOLA'S RIGHT TO ACT IN HER NATIONAL INTEREST."

--THE MODERATES, INCLUDING NASCIMENTO HIMSELF, WANT TO AVOID FURTHER CONFLICT AND FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF ISOLATION FROM THE US.

KILLORAN ALSO REPORTS THAT THE MPLA CLAIMS TO HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF "CRATES WITH US CUSTOMS MARKINGS" WHICH ALLEGEDLY CONSTITUTE "PROOF" OF US ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE FNLA.

6. SOUTH KOREAN OPPOSITION LEADER INDICTED

CONTRARY TO EMBASSY SEOUL'S EXPECTATIONS, NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM HAS BEEN INDICTED FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF EMERGENCY MEASURES DEALING WITH "FABRICATING OR DISSEMINATING FALSE FACTS." HOWEVER, HE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ARRESTED OR INCARCERATED, AS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE SUCH AN UNPOPULAR STEP.

EMBASSY COMMENT: KIM HAS BEEN CRITICIZED WITHIN THE NDP RECENTLY FOR COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE INDICTMENT WILL PROBABLY RESTORE HIS CREDENTIALS AS OPPOSITION LEADER.

7. INDONESIA NOT PLANNING MILITARY INTERVENTION IN TIMOR

EMBASSY JAKARTA'S CURRENT INFORMATION IS THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO IS NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY MILITARY ACTION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR UNDER PRESENT CURCUMSTANCES. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR:

--THE INDONESIANS HAVE INFORMED PORTUGAL OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO INTERVENE TO RESTORE ORDER, BUT NO INVITATION HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM LISBON.

--PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM IS TAKING QUIET SOUNDINGS TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN AUSTRALIAN-ASEAN GOOD OFFICES EFFORT WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

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8. SINGAPORE: LEE PREDICTS INTERNAL STRIFE IN S.E. ASIA

IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE AUGUST 23, PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW SPECULATED THAT THE PRC MIGHT INTERPOSE ITSELF IN INDOCHINA IN ORDER TO PREVENT A USSR-BACKED HANOI FROM EXTENDING ITS INFLUENCE OVER LAOS, CAMBODIA AND THAILAND. LEE FORESAW INCREASING PRESSURE FROM DOMESTIC INSURGENCIES IN THAILAND AND ULTIMATELY MALAYSIA, AND BELIEVED THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE NON-COMMUNIST STATES IN THE REGION TO BE THE TREATMENT OF OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES. LEE ALSO BELIEVED:

--THE 'PULL' BETWEEN CHINA AND THE OVERSEAS CHINESE NO LONGER EXISTS FOR THE MOST PART, AND THE CHINESE IN EACH STATE ARE PREPARED TO BE INTEGRATED INTO THE LOCAL SOCIETY AND TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER,

--SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES HAVE YET TO OVERCOME THEIR SUSPICIONS OF THEIR CHINESE COMMUNITIES AND ARE FAILING TO BRING THEM INTO POLITICAL LIFE.

LEE ASSERTED THAT CONTINUED US MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS
NOT ENOUGH--THE US SHOULD TELL SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS
NOT TO ALIENATE THEIR CHINESE MINORITIES. INGERSOLL

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